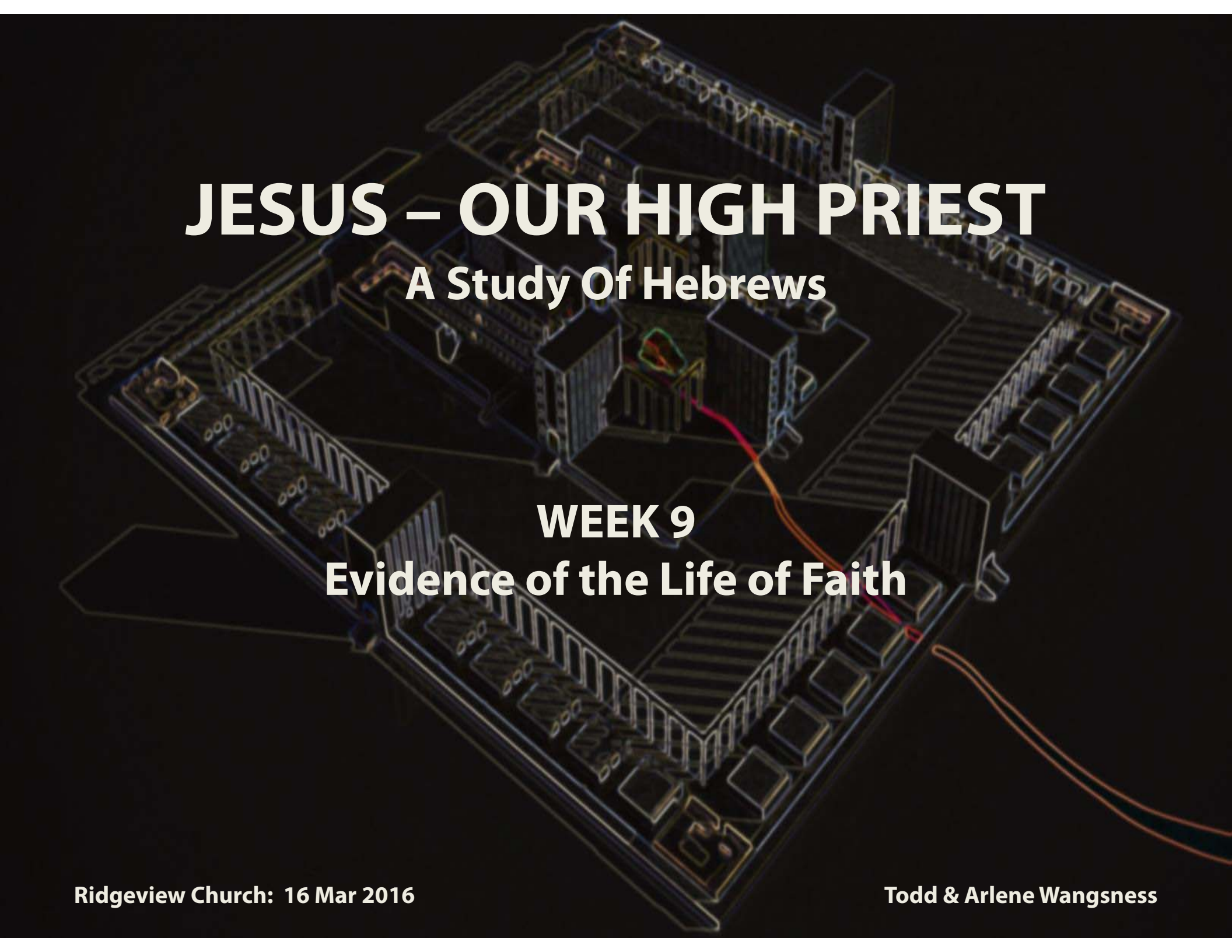


JESUS – OUR HIGH PRIEST

A Study Of Hebrews

WEEK 9
Evidence of the Life of Faith

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HEBREWS: Jesus Our High Priest

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Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:1–3)

1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."

- **:1 Faith gives substance to things hoped for and demonstrates provable reality to things unseen.**
  - ***Hupostasis* is the Greek word for faith**
    - **The meaning is "substance" - that which gives real existence to a title deed; or a real guarantee**
- **:2 History proves it is possible to live this way**
- **:3 An example is creation:**
  - **Creation is something that must be accepted by faith for no man was present to observe it**

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:4–7)

4 "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; [a] for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

7 By faith Noah, being warned of God concerning things not seen as yet, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to Faith."

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:4–7)

- **:4 Abel is an example of <u>worshiping in faith</u>**
  - **Abel manifested faith through the recognition of an obligation**
    - **He believed and offered a better sacrifice**
    - **Because he offered a better sacrifice. He is righteous**
    - **Because he was righteous, he is a true witness of the life of faith**

- **:5-6 Enoch is an example of <u>walking in faith</u>**
  - **Enoch manifested faith through a life that was well pleasing unto God**
  - **He believed that God exists**
  - **He believed that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him**

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:4–7)

- **:7 Noah is a good example of the <u>obedience of faith</u>**
  - **Godly fear**
    - **The Greek word means "pious care"**
  - **Noah accomplished two things:**
    - **He condemned the world by his life and testimony**
    - **He became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith**

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:8–11)

8 "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child[b] when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore."

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:8–11)

- **Abraham illustrates the <u>patience of faith</u>**
  - **:8 Abraham showed faith by *immediately* obeying**
    - **the meaning of the word "obey"**
  - **:9-10 Another way Abraham showed faith is by becoming a foreigner**
    - **The Greek word for dwelling means "to live as a stranger in temporary dwellings"**
    - **Abraham believed the Heavenly Jerusalem was his ultimate Promised Land**
  - **:11-12 It was Abraham's faith that gave Sarah the ability to conceive and in that sense, she became one with Abraham by faith**
    - ***"to conceive seed"* literally reads in Greek as "the depositing of sperm"**

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:13–16)

13 "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them,[c] embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:13–16)

1. The Patriarchs lived according to faith
2. They didn't received the totality of the promise in their lifetime
3. They saw the future fulfillment by faith
4. They believed that God would bring the promises to pass
5. They embraced or saluted the promises
6. They confessed that they were earthly strangers and pilgrims
7. They were seeking a heavenly country
8. They had no desire to return to Ur or Haran

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:17–22)

17 "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called,"[d] 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones."

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:17–22)

:17-19 Abraham showed faith through the sacrifice of Isaac

- **Abraham immediately obeyed…he didn't even pause to think it through**
- **Abraham knew that if he had to kill Isaac, then God would have to raise Isaac from death to life**
  - **Because God is a covenant-keeping God, His covenant requires God to resurrect Isaac to fulfill His promises to Abraham**
  - **If God makes a promise to an individual and that individual dies before the promise is fulfilled, God is obligated to resurrect that individual to fulfill the promise with him**

- **"Begotten" emphasizes uniqueness not origin**
  - **Isaac was the only son of Sarah**
  - **He was the only son who would inherit the covenant**

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:17–22)

:20 Isaac is an example of future faith.

- **He blessed Jacob and Esau although he didn't give the blessings to the one to whom he intended to give them**
- **By faith, he knew that what was prophesied would come to pass**

:21 Jacob is also an example of faith concerning future things

- **The fact that Jacob was dying shows he knew he would die before God's promises would be fulfilled**
- **He believed God was able to keep His promise and didn't hesitate to give prophetic blessings to the two sons of Joseph**

:22 As Joseph grew older and was dying, He also realized the promise would not be fulfilled in his lifetime. Nevertheless, he believed it would be fulfilled

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:23–29)

23 "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command."

- **Faith works despite adversity and faith accepts God's plan**
  - **Moses' parents had faith**
  - **The Greek word for "beautiful" means purpose**
    - **They recognized that God had a special plan for their son**

24 "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in[e] Egypt; for he looked to the reward."

- **:24 Faith will sometimes have to reject worldly honor**
  - **Moses' faith was personal**
- **:25 Faith sometimes requires the rejection of the world's pleasures**
  - **Moses identified with the people of God and rejected his position in Egypt**
- **:26 Faith sometimes requires the rejection of the world's riches**

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:23–29)

27 "By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them."

- **:27 Faith rejects the world's pressures to perform or to meet its standards of approval**
  - **Moses' faith was public**
- **:28 Faith obeys the details of God's Word**
  - **Moses kept the Passover as God prescribed**

29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned."

- **:29 Faith is willing to do what is unnatural**
  - **The Israelites passed through the Red Sea**

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:30–35)

30 "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. 31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace."

- **Faith overcomes enemies**
- **Faith will sometimes requires one to do what seems unnatural and illogical**

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:30–35)

32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again."

Faith is associated with trials; they should not nullify faith but strengthen it

1. **National Victories**
   - **Subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness and obtained promises**
2. **Personal Deliverance**
   - **Stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire and escaped the edge of the sword**
3. **Personal Gifts and Attainments**
   - **Out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle and turned to flight the armies of the aliens**

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:36–40)

36 "Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted,[f] were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us."

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

Exhortations (Heb 11:36–40)

- **Faith triumphs over death**
  - **Some were raised to life**
  - **The triumph of faith unto death causes a higher victory**

- **All who have had faith and have shown their faith will have a share in the Kingdom**
  - **The fulfillment is yet future**
- **Why did God allow some saints to die before His promises were fulfilled?**
  - **There is a unity in God's program**
  - **If God had fulfilled all the Messianic Kingdom promises to the OT saints in their lifetime, then there would be nothing for present believers to anticipate**
- **There is something waiting for all believers in the future**

Hebrews: Evidence of the Life of Faith

SUMMARY

1 Pet 1:3-9 ***"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen[a] you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls."***

- **We are kept by the power of God through our faith!**
- **Our faith is MUCH more precious than gold!**
- **God wants our faith to be found worthy of praise, honor and glory!**
- **The result of our faith is the salvation of our souls!**